



Crime Prevention Program Recognized



The Criminal Justice Services Board of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services has, once again, approved and recognized Fairfax County as a Certified Crime Prevention Community. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors acknowl-

edged the achievement yesterday with presentations made to Police Chief, Colonel David M. Rohrer and Master Police Officer Patrick Lucas, a Crime Prevention Officer assigned to the McLean Police District.

The Certified Crime Prevention Community program was created in 1998 by a directive from the Governor's Commission for Community Safety. It was designed to promote community safety and to recognize policies and practices used by safe, low-crime communities. Fairfax County, along with 14 other jurisdictions in Virginia, is known for sending a strong message to the public that crime will not be tolerated in the county and that governing officials will take all reasonable efforts to eliminate it.

Localities that are certified to be Crime Prevention Communities must go through the certification process every three years.

Inside this issue:

Crime Prevention Program Recognized	Page 1
What do Mosquito Traps Look Like?	Page 2
Extra Care Needed in Summer	Page 3
Celebrate Fairfax is Here Again!	Page 3
Mortgage Fraud	Page 4
Mortgage Clinics	Page 5
Neighborhood Watch	Page 6
Citizen's Advisory Council	Page 6
Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?	Page 7
Welcome Captain Paul Thornton!	Page 8

Events of Interest

Celebrate Fairfax,

June 6th—8th

Father's Day, June 15th

CAC Meeting, June 24th



What do Mosquito Traps Look Like?



The Fairfax County Health Department will be placing mosquito traps throughout the County in select areas. During a time when the Police Department urges you to report suspicious activity, we want to bring to your attention what some of these traps look like to enhance community awareness.



CDC Miniature Light Traps



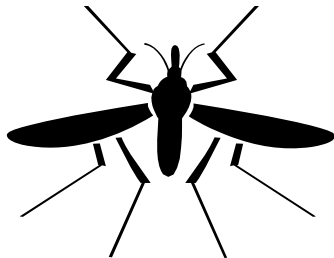
Gravid Trap Box



Ovitrap



Faye-Prince Trap



Zumba Trap with Tarp



BG-Sentinel Trap with Tarp

The mosquito surveillance program is established throughout the county, and includes trapping stations throughout the county, where traps are set on a weekly basis to collect adult mosquitoes. These traps are a critical element in the county's mosquito management program and provide important data for analysis.

If you see this equipment please do not disturb it!



Extra Care Needed in Summer Heat



Although any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illnesses, some people are at greater risk than others.

- ♦ Infants and children up to 4 years of age are sensitive to the effects of high temperatures and rely on others to regulate their environments and provide adequate liquids.
- ♦ People 65 years of age and older may not compensate for heat stress efficiently and are less likely to sense and respond to change in temperature.
- ♦ People who are overweight may be prone to heat sickness because of their tendency to retain more body heat.
- ♦ People who overexert during work or exercise may become dehydrated and susceptible to heat sickness.
- ♦ People who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure, or who take certain medications, such as for depression, insomnia or poor circulation, may be affected by extreme heat.

Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children, of course need much more frequent watching.

If you witness a small child, animal or elderly person sitting in a hot car unattended, call 9-1-1 immediately to have an officer dispatched to the location. Give any information that you can on the health of the person or animal, i.e., distressed, conscious or unconscious, so that appropriate emergency personnel can be dispatched. If at all possible, remain with the vehicle and update the dispatchers of any changes in the person's or animal's health status.

Try to give as accurate a location as possible with a detailed description of the vehicle for responding emergency personnel. Your call could save a life.



Celebrate Fairfax is Here Again!

Bring the family for some community fun! Enjoy informational booths, bands, carnival rides, food and much more.

Where? Fairfax County Government Center

When? June 6 - 8, 2008

12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, Va.

Hours: Friday

Saturday

Sunday

(6 p.m. - midnight)

(10 a.m. - midnight)

(10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)



MORTGAGE FRAUD

New Analysis of a Rising Threat



This information is shared, courtesy of the FBI
http://www.fbi.gov/page2/may08/mortgagefraud_051308.html

Synopsis of findings:

(05/13/08)

... **Mortgage fraud is clearly on the rise.** Although there is no central way to track the total extent of the problem, we received 46,717 Suspicious Activity Reports related to mortgage fraud last year—compared to 35,617 in 2006 and just 6,936 in 2003. Only seven percent of these reports documented an exact dollar amount in terms of losses, but even so, the total loss from this seven percent was \$813 million. Our caseload has also escalated. By the end of fiscal year 2007, we were handling just over 1,200 mortgage fraud investigations—a 47 percent increase from 2006 and a whopping 176 percent increase from 2003.

... **The downward trend in the housing market will continue** (see forecasts provided by the Mortgage Bankers Association in the report), providing further incentive for shady real estate industry insiders to look for dishonest ways to turn a profit and growing opportunities for scam artists to prey on vulnerable homeowners.

... **The subprime lending crisis is a contributing factor to mortgage fraud, both directly and indirectly.** Subprime loans, designed for people with poor or limited credit histories, now represent more than 13 percent of all outstanding loans—double the percentage of five years ago. These high-interest, high-risk loans contributed to the 2.2 million foreclosures filed during 2007, up 75 percent from 2006. The trouble actually began when home prices were rising a few years ago, leading to relaxed lending practices throughout the industry and the exaggeration of assets by borrowers anxious to qualify for loans, both of which contributed to fraud.

... **The top 10 hotspots nationwide for mortgage fraud in 2007**, carefully mapped from multiple public and private sources, were: Florida, Georgia, Michigan, California, Illinois, Ohio, Texas, New York, Colorado, and Minnesota. The north-central region had the largest share of mortgage fraud, followed by the west and southeast regions.

.. **The latest mortgage scams run the gamut:** from “builder-bailout” schemes where developers unload excess inventory through financial trickery...to foreclosure rescue frauds that trick homeowners into signing over the deed to their house; from seller-assistance scams that use false appraisals to sell homes...to identity theft that leads to home equity credit lines being opened and drained. See the report for more details.

The report also briefly recounts our proactive response to the problem, including our participation in the Department of Justice's Mortgage Fraud Working Group, through which we are helping to identify large-scale industry insiders and criminal enterprises conducting systemic mortgage fraud...our work in multi-agency mortgage fraud task forces and working groups around the country...and our recent “Mortgage Fraud Summit” to discuss the issue with special agents nationwide.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNOR KAINE ANNOUNCES MORTGAGE CLINICS TO BE HELD IN JUNE

~ Counselors will provide foreclosure prevention advice ~

RICHMOND – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced the schedule for a series of free regional mortgage clinics to help Virginians avoid home foreclosure. The clinics will be hosted by the Virginia Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, which was formed by Governor Kaine in November 2007 to help protect and preserve homeownership in the Commonwealth. The clinics will be held throughout the Commonwealth in June, coinciding with national Homeownership Month.

"If you have concerns about the health of your mortgage, I encourage you to sign up for one of these free mortgage clinics," said Governor Kaine. "Whether you are just beginning to have trouble making your mortgage payments or you are already in foreclosure, our hope is that the information you receive at the clinics will help you keep your home."

The clinics will include general foreclosure prevention information, as well as individual foreclosure counseling sessions with certified housing counselors trained in loss mitigation and foreclosure prevention. Clinics will last approximately 90 minutes, including a 30-minute general session and the free foreclosure counseling.

"These free mortgage clinics will benefit communities across Virginia," said Susan Dewey, Executive Director of the Virginia Housing Development Authority. "Attendees will learn about the importance of contacting their lender at the first sign of trouble, working with a housing counselor, knowing their foreclosure prevention options, prioritizing spending plans and avoiding foreclosure scams."

Walk-ins are welcome at the clinics, however space for the individual counseling sessions is limited and pre-registration is strongly encouraged. To register for a clinic counseling session, please visit the Virginia Foreclosure Prevention Task Force website at www.VirginiaForeclosurePrevention.com. The website also offers important foreclosure prevention tips and provides a list of Virginia certified housing counselors who can help Virginians assess their situation and offer specific suggestions.

The Virginia Foreclosure Prevention Task Force Mortgage Clinics are made possible by the sponsorship of Freddie Mac, VHDA, 1st Advantage Federal Credit Union, StellarOne Corp., and Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc.

The times and locations of the clinics are:

June 21, 2008

Chantilly

Chantilly High School
4201 Stringfellow Road
Chantilly, Virginia
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Woodbridge

Northern Virginia Community College – Woodbridge Campus
15200 Neabsco Mills Road
Woodbridge, Virginia
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Neighborhood Watch News



Don't forget our last Neighborhood Watch training session in 2008! The October 16th training will be held in the roll call room at the Fair Oaks District Station at 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity for the existing volunteers to take a refresher course as well as to train newcomers. If there is a large group at any given time we may change the venue to the Sully District Station conference room. **Do not forget to R.S.V.P. to MPO Sophia Grinnan via e-mail at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov.** Training dates for 2009 will be announced in a later edition of our news letter, The Fair Oaks District Community Connection.

It will be up to each community to provide participants. Only if you have participants should you contact MPO Grinnan. Lack of participation will result in a cancellation. If the session is canceled, you will be notified by an automated response when you e-mail MPO Grinnan. For example: You e-mail and ask if the training will still be presented. After you send the e-mail you will get an automated reply indicating whether it is canceled.

Neighborhood Watch will reconvene on the last Tuesday of every month, same time and place, beginning in September 2008. This session of Neighborhood Watch meeting has proven to be most productive and we look forward to working with you in the Fall. Have a great summer and please keep your safety tips in mind and in practice.

Remember, if you need assistance with community assistance throughout the summer months, please call your Crime Prevention Officers or dial 9-1-1 for emergencies and 703-691-2131 for non-emergency reports.



CAC NEWS



The next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting will be on June 24th at 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Heliport located on 4604 West Ox Road in the Fairfax area. We will close out this great year with our annual end-of-the-year cookout.

Our next Citizen's Advisory Council meeting after that will reconvene in September on the last Tuesday of every month beginning at 7:30 pm, right after our Neighborhood Watch meeting at 7 p.m. We will still assemble in the roll call room of the Fair Oaks District Police Station located at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in the Fairfax area

We have enjoyed a spectacular year with you and look forward to another fruitful session in the Fall of 2009.



Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?



§ 46.2-926. Pedestrians stepping into highway where they cannot be seen.

No pedestrian shall step into a highway open to moving vehicular traffic at any point between intersections where his presence would be obscured from the vision of drivers of approaching vehicles by a vehicle or other obstruction at the curb or side. The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to a pedestrian stepping into a highway to board a bus or to enter a safety zone, in which event he shall cross the highway only at right angles.

§ 46.2-924. Drivers to stop for pedestrians; installation of certain signs; penalty.

A. The driver of any vehicle on a highway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian crossing such highway:

1. At any clearly marked crosswalk, whether at mid-block or at the end of any block;
2. At any regular pedestrian crossing included in the prolongation of the lateral boundary lines of the adjacent sidewalk at the end of a block;
3. At any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway or street where the legal maximum speed does not exceed 35 miles per hour.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section, at intersections or crosswalks where the movement of traffic is being regulated by law-enforcement officers or traffic control devices, the driver shall yield according to the direction of the law-enforcement officer or device.

No pedestrian shall enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic.

The drivers of vehicles entering, crossing, or turning at intersections shall change their course, slow down, or stop if necessary to permit pedestrians to cross such intersections safely and expeditiously.

Pedestrians crossing highways at intersections shall at all times have the right-of-way over vehicles making turns into the highways being crossed by the pedestrians.

C. The governing body of Arlington County, Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, the County of Loudoun and any town therein, and the City of Alexandria, may by ordinance provide for the installation and maintenance of highway signs at marked crosswalks specifically requiring operators of motor vehicles, at the locations where such signs are installed, to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing or attempting to cross the highway. Any operator of a motor vehicle who fails at such locations to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians as required by such signs shall be guilty of a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of no less than \$100 or more than \$500. The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall develop criteria for the design, location, and installation of such signs. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any limited access highway.

§ 46.2-925. Pedestrian control signals.

Whenever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are in place such signals shall indicate as follows:

Walk. - Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the highway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

Don't Walk. - No pedestrian shall start to cross the highway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the Walk signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island and remain there while the Don't Walk signal is showing.



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Commander, Captain Paul Thornton

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Asst. Commander,

1Lieutenant Ed O'Carroll

Edward.O'Carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov

Crime Prevention Unit,

703-352-2163

Fairfax County Crime Solvers:

1-866-411-TIPS or 703-691-8888

Fairfax County Police

Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Citizen Reporting System

(for reports not requiring an officer to respond)

Call the non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 or report online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov to public safety , police department.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication

Welcome Captain Paul Thornton!

Help the men and women of the Fair Oaks District Station welcome Captain Paul Thornton, new District Commander to its team. He came to us in April and brings with him much experience from his 28+ year career.



Paul Thornton, 49, a native of McLean, Virginia, began a law enforcement career in the town of Vienna in 1979. He joined the Fairfax county Police Department in 1984 and by 1988 had already started his career path as a supervisor.

Since he was promoted to Sergeant in 1988, he has served at our Operations Support Bureau in the Park Section, West Springfield and Reston Districts, and at the Academy, where he was promoted to Second Lieutenant. At this rank he served at the Academy and then was the supervisor for the Criminal Investigations section of the Franconia District. From there, then Lt. Thornton, went to our Firearms Range and then back to the Reston District before serving at our Internal Affairs Bureau. The McLean District snatched him up for four months and then IAB reclaimed him for another two- year stint. After that he was deployed to the Mason District Station where he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He immediately became the School Liaison Commander for the Department's Youth Services Division. A year later he served as the Assistant Station Commander at the Reston District Station and the Criminal Investigations Bureau's Investigative Support Division for two years each.

In January 2007 he was promoted to Captain and served as a Staff Duty Officer for the County until April when he came to Fair Oaks.

Captain Thornton looks forward to working with and meeting his District's citizens. During his first week with us he experienced the community involvement through a meeting called to battle the rash of property crimes and was thrilled at the commitment involved. Over 100 people attended and worked with police. Vehicle tampering and thefts dropped drastically, immediately. The new commander response: "These are my kind of people; this is going to be fun!"